



WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER MARCH 2026

LAST MILE RELIEF

(This article was pirated from Last Mile Relief's web page with a few minor edits. Mostly to replace "we" with "they" since I'm not part of their group.)

When Hurricane Helene struck Western North Carolina in 2024, the devastation was immediate and overwhelming. Roads disappeared, communities were cut off, and critical supplies couldn't reach the people who needed them most.

In that moment of urgent need, Venture Unknown, a 7,000-member overlanding and outdoor community, mobilized without hesitation. The initial small group of volunteers quickly put together a structured basecamp for coordinating relief efforts in real time and deploying capable, self-sufficient teams into areas others simply couldn't reach.

Armed with off-road vehicles, outdoor experience, and a shared determination to help, hundreds of volunteers stepped up. They delivered food, water, medicine, fuel, and essential supplies to families stranded by flooding and infrastructure failures. They checked on isolated residents, relayed critical information, and provided a lifeline to communities navigating the aftermath of disaster.

In the months following the disaster, Their teams operated continuously across Western North Carolina—adapting, learning, and proving that skilled volunteers with the right tools can make an immediate and meaningful impact when traditional access routes are gone.

As the immediate crisis faded, one thing became clear: what happened during Hurricane Helene shouldn't be a one-time effort. In 2025, **Last Mile Relief** was officially formed as a registered 501c3 non-profit organization to carry that momentum forward.

While grateful for a disaster-free year, they recognized it as an opportunity—not a pause. They used the time to build the foundation, partnerships, training, and infrastructure needed to respond even faster and more effectively when the next disaster strikes.

Because in the Southeast, it's not a question of *if*—it's *when*.

Last Mile Relief exists to fill the critical gap between large-scale response and local need. They specialize in rapid response, last-mile assistance—getting people and supplies into hard-to-reach areas when roads are damaged, power is out, and communities are cut off. By leveraging volunteers with overland, outdoor, and logistical skill sets, they're able to operate where traditional relief efforts may be delayed or unable to reach.

Their focus is simple:

- Rapid deployment after natural disasters
- Supporting local communities in their most vulnerable moments
- Delivering critical supplies directly to those who need them
- Working alongside local agencies and grassroots efforts, not replacing them

They do it because no one should feel forgotten when disaster strikes.

Last Mile Relief is built on the belief that everyday people—with the right preparation and a willingness to serve—can change outcomes in times of crisis. They've seen first hand how a single delivery, a single check-in, or a single volunteer can restore hope when everything else feels uncertain.

As they prepare for the 2026 natural disaster season and beyond, their mission remains clear: to provide rapid, reliable, and compassionate disaster relief to communities across the Southeast—especially those at the end of the road.

Whether through volunteering, partnerships, or support, everyone has a role to play in helping them reach the **LAST MILE!**

Last Mile Relief can be reached at contact@lastmilerelief.org

NEW KANAWHA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WEBSITE

The new Kanawha Amateur Radio Club (and Kanawha ARES) web page is up and open for business at www.w8gk-karc.com. There is a separate page attached to it for KARES that has lots of resources for interested hams.

Extra Dan was setting up a new logging program and needed a password with eight characters.

Technician Bob suggested "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

42ND ANNUAL CHARLESTON AREA HAMFEST

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9:00 AM until 1:00 PM

A Hamfest is a blend of amateur radio convention, reunion, education, flea market, license testing, and an opportunity to meet other hams face to face that had only been voices heard over the air.

The Charleston Area Hamfest will be held at the Beni Kedem Temple, 100 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301. There is free parking beside the building. Admission is \$10. There are three major door prizes (\$500, \$250 and a DX Engineering gift certificate for \$100). There are additional drawings every half hour for other prizes. Extra tickets for the drawings will be available at the door.

Local Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all Amateur Radio License levels. ARES and ARRL will be holding forums so interested parties can learn more about amateur radio and the services it provides; both locally and nationally. Join us for a day of fellowship and fun. You might just learn something, or teach something to someone else!

For more information email Randy Damron, N8XEA at rdn8xea@gmail.com.

RFI PROBLEM DISCOVERED

I've been having a recurring problem with interference disrupting TV reception of channel 13 from Huntington. After discussing the problem with more experienced Hams, I suspected it was a triple harmonic of my transmission on two meter. It started happening when I wasn't on the radio. My XYL still blamed me.

One day it happened while I was doing laundry. It turns out the new "screw in, ceiling LED light/fan" in the laundry room was the cause. She doesn't remember where she got it, it probably started life somewhere in China. We no longer have the box it came in and there is no name on the fixture itself. I do get to blame my XYL for a change.

The easiest fix would be to replace it with a standard light bulb. However, we like having the remote control feature. By turning the fan off and the light on low it only pixiates the screen once in a while. The next time I'm at Lowes I'll check out the Bell and Howell model they carry. Maybe I'll take this one to deer camp.



Tecnician Bob wants to write a book called The History of Beer.” Extra Dan says he is going through too many drafts.

OPEN GMRS REPEATERS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Open repeaters are public and anyone can use them. Closed repeaters are private and can only be accessed by permission of the owner.

COUNTY	LOCATION	FREQUENCY	ZONE	OWNER
BERKELEY	Falling Waters	462.625	179.9	WRXA649
CABELL	Huntington	462.625	85.4	WROZ307
CABELL	Huntington	462.675	103.5	WRPJ893
GREENBRIER	Alderson, Keeney Knob Fire Tower	462.625	100.0	WRVB405
HARDY	Moorefield, Branch Mountain	462.625	107.2	WSCR594
JACKSON	Ravenswood	462.600	141.3	WRQW793
KANAWHA	Charleston, East Side	462.575	100.0	WRDM641
MERCER	Princeton	462.600	151.4	WRWK421
NICHOLAS	Craigsville, Cottle Knob	462.650	141.3	WSGV374
NICHOLAS	Richwood, mid-town	462.550	141.3	WOBA456
OHIO	Wheeling	462.625	123.0	WRKM204
PUTNAM	Poca, Doc Bailet Road Bridge	462.625	103.5	WQWI512
RALEIGH	Beckley, Lick Knob	462.600	141.3	WRWB465
RALEIGH	Beckley, Spruce Mountain	462.550	141.3	WRUM663
SUMMERS	Hinton	462.650	103.5	WRYQ719
SUMMERS	Sandstone, Sewell Mountain	462.700	171.3	WRWK421

WV SPLATTER

WV Splatter is a digital newsletter for all amateur radio operators in the Mountain State and anyone interested in the hobby regardless of where they live. If you know anyone who might be interested, pass it on. The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted all issues of this newsletter on their web page at www.wv8ar.com. It is also submitted each month to the *Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Technology*. I welcome content for WV Splatter from all sources; book or equipment reviews, pictures, ham related jokes, announcements of events in your area and items for sale or sought after. Send submissions to me at nettlescreek@frontier.com. Use the same email address to send an email address for anyone who wants added to the WV Splatter distribution list.

73 and thanks to all
Jim Hudson, KE8PNY